



Sept 1, 2015

## hartford street zc news


### Someone said to me the other day,

"Aren't you always working on something?" Yes, we're always working on something, but hopefully it's not up here in our heads, filled with words to obscure it.

I was talking with my teacher in Santa Fe about the phrase, "coming to reside in your breath-mind," and working with that phrase; and how useful it is to me. I thought it was interesting that I'd never heard it before, and was first now beginning to work with it. Baker-Roshi said to me, 'you just heard it but you didn't just hear it'. This has been with you since you first started practicing." It's a whole way of working with your mind" and I've been thinking a lot about that lately.

Hopefully, you won't have to wait for twenty years before you begin to hear how to work with this thing called mind in zazen. Now people who come to practice immediately sit much easier than they did when I first began to sit at Sokoji Temple. I remember everybody sitting with their legs bent up. They'd sit for five minutes, and then they'd lay down and moan. But now people come and it's like we already did that part for them. It's as if we have a shared body that has already gone through that preliminary stuff and people are already able to experience some aspect of zazen practice and how we practice together.

We have to be willing to explore and experiment. First we have to have a sense of humor and a willingness to explore and experiment with our liv



**public schedule**

**mondays**

- \* 7:00 am zazen
- \* 7:40 am morning chanting service
- 6:00 pm zazen
- 6:40 pm evening chanting service

*\* last monday of each month, no morning schedule*

es and our uncomfortableness. We know that sometimes we can sit for a few minutes, or even a few days, but at some point it gets pretty uncomfortable; and it's uncomfortable for us not to invite our thoughts to tea, and to reside in our breath-mind. "Don't invite your thoughts to tea" is an expression of Suzuki-Roshi's which I've always found useful. You know, these are just words, and we have to remember that every human concept is just delusion. Still, we use words and provisionally talk about our experience.

Lately, I have been exploring this way of thinking with J.D. and I appreciate the opportunity to work with him. As you know, J.D. has dementia, the virus that is living in his brain. I'm thinking and working on it and talking with J.D. about it because the virus that is attacking so many of us now ends up being in the brain. So is there some way for us to experience that? I don't know yet. My question is: how to be with people who have dementia and how to experience the dementia that we all have now anyway? Mind is always creating confusion, joy and pain, like and don't like and depression. But there is also a "background mind." This is what we have been talking about together.

Excerpt from an Issan Dharma talk published in the HSZC news, Winter 1988



### **tuesdays - fridays**

6:00 am zazen  
6:40 am kinhin (walking meditation)  
6:50 am zazen  
7:20 am chanting service  
7:40 am soji (brief temple cleaning)

6:00 pm zazen  
6:40 pm chanting service

**thursdays study hour 7:30pm**

### **saturdays**

6:30 am zazen  
7:10 am chanting service  
7:25 am soji  
8:30 am drop-in instruction  
9:25 am zazen  
10:15 am dharma talk  
11:00 am refreshments/social \*

*\* if a ceremony applies it will occur before social time*



## **upcoming events:**

**dharma talks @10:15am saturdays**

**hszc speakers**

**Myō Lahey** - sept 26 -- oct 10 & 🎃 31

**Daiko Tanzen, David Bullock** - sept 5

*guest speakers*

**Peter van der Steere** - sept 12; **Anshi Daigi, Zachary Smith** - sept 19; **Kai Ji, Jeffrey Schneider** - Oct 3; **Ryuko, Laura Burges** - oct 17; **Fugan, Eugene Bush** - nov 14; **Ryuei, Michael McCormick** - dec 12

**full moon ceremony** - **saturday, Sept 26 @11am Harvest Moon**- This full moon's name is attributed to Native Americans because it marked when corn was supposed to be harvested. Most often, the September full moon is actually the Harvest Moon, which is the full Moon that occurs closest to the autumn equinox. In two years out of three, the Harvest Moon comes in September, but in some years it occurs in October. At the peak of harvest, farmers can work late into the night by the light of this Moon. Usually the full Moon rises an average of 50 minutes later each night, but for the few nights around the Harvest Moon, the Moon seems to rise at nearly the same time each night: just 25 to 30 minutes later across the U.S., and only 10 to 20 minutes later for much of Canada and Europe. Corn, pumpkins, squash, beans, and wild rice the chief Indian staples are now ready for gathering.

**study hour - thursdays @7:30pm**: selected Studies of Zen Master Dogen. [see our website](#) for details. So far all have been from the version compiled and translated by **Kazuaki Tanahashi**.

**closure & schedule changes** -

**first monday of each month** - no morning program, only evening [schedule](#)

**founder monthly memorials** - [Issan's](#) is the 6th of each month and [Philip's](#) is the 26th (or closest dates to these if cant be on that day) evenings at 6:40pm or saturday mornings

**Issan 25th annual memorial event** - saturday, Sept 5th @ 11am and sunday, Sept 6th @4pm. Formal invite to come... see below for details and if you wish, to go ahead and RSVP please feel free to do so now!

**practice discussions at hszc are available with Rev. Daiko Tanzen**, David Bullock. and **Dokusan with Rev. Myo Lahey** please call us, approach them directly, or email: [hszc108@yahoo.com](mailto:hszc108@yahoo.com) to request to schedule time.



Please help support our Temple, Dharma Study, Resident Student Program, Our Practice Schedule, and the Space & Programs offered to the Public.

**Donations are tax deductible**  
we are a 501-C 3 non-profit

Abbot Myo Lahey and Rev. Daiko Tanzen David Bullock

invite you to the

## 25th Annual Memorial for Issan Dorsey at Hartford Street Zen Center

"All you do here is come sit. It's hard to do. But there's no end to it.  
You can sit all kinds of ways, and you can learn that you can also refine your life endlessly,



and that there are endless ways of extending yourself into the larger community.  
So you come and sit, and then we see what happens from there." - Issan Dorsey

Saturday September 5, 11:00am

Special Encore Performance by Seth Eisen of the Issan Vignette from  
Blackbird: Honoring a Century of Pansy Divas  
following morning zazen and Dharma talk

Sunday September 6, 4:00pm

25th Annual Founder's Memorial and Reception

Please R.S.V.P. to [hszc108@yahoo.com](mailto:hszc108@yahoo.com)

Hartford Street Zen Center, 57 Hartford Street, San Francisco, CA 94114

### words from our former & first HSZC Abbot: Issan Dorsey

...As the first chief priest of Issan-ji, One Mountain Temple, I offer this incense from the very no-beginning to the immense compassion and wisdom of Buddhist teaching. To the Mahayana Vairochana Buddha, to Manjushri, Avalokiteshvara, and all the Bodhisattvas, to the great historical Shakyamuni Buddha, to all the Patriarchs through Dogen Zenji and Shogaku Shunryu Daiocho, to my own compassionate teacher Zentatsu Myoyu, may their own immeasurable Bodhi practice benefit and inspire in peace and

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harmony all beings in every world, life after life, all the distances penetrating everywhere for all beings in the six worlds, especially for our dear abiding friends Michael Merrill and Joe Gutierrez who were founding members of this temple, and for all who have given in every way to make this sangha real, may their passage be free from hindrance.

Our practice at One Mountain temple is settling in closeness with each other, so we can know completely we have bonds with each other that are more important than birth or death-settled in ultimate closeness. I'd like to recite a poem my teacher and I both like, from the koan. "Where to meet after death"

This is the poem in the koan:

True friendship transcends intimacy or alienation  
Between meeting and not meeting-no difference  
On the old fully blossomed plum tree,  
South branch owns the whole spring  
North branch owns the whole spring.

This is Issan's poem:

We have bonds with each other that are more important than life or death.  
The original face has no birth or death  
Spring is in the plum flower  
Entering a painted picture.

**Mountain Seat Ceremony, published March HSZC Newsletter 1990.**

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**learn the basics in the art of quilting**



*\*While practicing patience and mindfulness\**



Five (or possibly six) sessions on Tuesday evenings,

7:30 – 9:00, Sept. 2, 8, 15, 29 (Oct. 6 ?)

\$150 for the series, includes a non-refundable deposit of \$25. except in case of cancelation.

Class size limited to five people.

You will make a small sampler quilt using several

basic techniques.

For details & to register please contact David at [daiko1948@yahoo.com](mailto:daiko1948@yahoo.com)



fundraising help needed -

Sangha Library Project:

Help us get new bookshelves for the library and if possible, re-model the living and dining rooms!

**How can you help?** Sheryl will have a sign up sheet for email notification of the volunteer link from EventBrite (toward the end of summer). Per your requests HSZC will not have an official gate this year – this opens up many new ways to volunteer for the fair and support our efforts, such as safety, exhibitor support, setup, breakdown, stagehand, or info/sales.

**The funds from the Fair will be used to purchase new shelving and move the library to the dining room. This also opens up the possibility (based on the availability of funds) of re-modeling the living and dining rooms.** We hope you will support our efforts at the Fair! And with our library! Note: All members of Hartford Street are able to check books out of the library. If you aren't yet a member, please consider joining our sangha community.

Donations to the library fund would be bookishly accepted and appreciated! Please designate on checks and PayPal that the gift is for the Library Project.

**Thank you.**

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**HIV meditation group;** weekly meditation group for those living with HIV, their friends, families, community supporters & anyone who wants to join us!  
 thursdays & fridays  
 10:30am zazen  
 11:00am garden socializing

**meditation in recovery;** weekly meditation group for men & women in recovery from addiction  
 fridays, 7:30pm - 9pm

**(women only) meditation in recovery;** monthly meditation group for women in recovery from addiction  
 first thurs, 7:15pm -8:45pm

**(men only) meditation in recovery;** a monthly meeting for men in recovery from addiction  
 3rd thurs of every month, 7:30pm-8:30pm

**board of director meetings;** you're invited to attend & observe!  
 second weds of each month, 7:30pm



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*please contact us for rental space & events, ceremonies performed by a zen priest  
 - weddings, memorials, coming of age & baby naming events -*

find other sf bay area lgbtqqi community events [here](#) - or - [here](#)

**national, worldwide & other, holidays [here](#)** (\*warning\* some are pretty silly)

[For more pictures of Issan, visit here!](#)

Abbot, hartford street zen center --  
 - Reverend Myō Lahey ---





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*Branching Streams*  
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*may this newsletter find you well  
& equanimous! \_\_/\\\_\_*

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